

Last walk check			
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Petersfield to Rowlands Castle

Start: Petersfield station

Finish: Rowlands Castle station

Length: 16km (9.9 miles)

Time: 5 hours. For the whole outing, including trains, sights and meals, allow at least 9 hours.

Transport: Trains go from London Waterloo to Petersfield, the fastest journey time is one hour. Trains back from Rowlands Castle run once an hour. Journey time: 1 hour 28 minutes. Buy a day return to Rowlands Castle. (Cocking ending: Day return to Chichester.) If driving, park at the station car park at Petersfield, which is one stop up the line from Rowlands Castle. For the alternative ending at Cocking you then need to catch the 60 bus to Chichester. Refer to www.stagecoachbus.com for bus times. At the time of writing (11th February 2015), the last bus from the Cocking Post Office bus stop is 20:23 (Mon – Sat) and 19:41 (Sunday).

OS Landranger Map: 197

OS Explorer Maps: 120 and 133
Petersfield, map reference SU 743235, is in Hampshire, 25km east of Winchester.

Toughness: 3 out of 10.

Walk Notes: An undulating ramble through the little known western reaches of the South Downs. Though there are one or two steep climbs, the gradients are not arduous, and your reward is some fine hilltop views in the second half of the walk.

Walk options:

a) Alternative ending at Cocking. You may vary the end of the standard walk and finish in Cocking for tea. This increases the length of the walk by 4km, to 20km. You will need Explorer Map 120 for this option plus also refer to SWC walk 155. Follow the walk directions until [3], and then refer to the alternative ending directions at the end of the main text.

Saturday Walkers' Club: If stopping at the earlier lunch place at Buriton (the only choice for the alternative ending at Cocking); take the train nearest to 10.30 am from Waterloo Station to Petersfield, otherwise if stopping at the later lunch place at Chalton take the train nearest to 9.30 am

WALK DIRECTIONS**[1] [~~Numbers refer to the map.~~]**

Coming off the platform go through the ticket office to go down Lavent Street towards the Town Centre, your direction 130 degrees. In 220 metres *at a T-junction* with Chapel Street, *turn right* following the street for 100 metres to then go round to the left for a further 50 metres to reach The Square. Go *diagonally across The Square* towards its far corner. In 70 metres, go along St. Peters Road (to the left of the church).

After 180 metres *at a T-junction* with Dragon Street (B2070) *turn right*. In 250 metres you pass by a mini roundabout and in a further 220 metres you pass by Cranford Road on your right hand side. 15 metres further on *turn left along a shingle car wide track, sign-posted Hangers Way* (and Queen Elizabeth Country Park), your direction 140 degrees.

In 80 metres just before the entrance to no. 106, *turn right* (marked by a footpath post) along a grass footpath, your direction 190 degrees. In 220 metres go through a wooden gate to cross over a wooden footbridge to go along a fenced in footpath between gardens.

After 30 metres *turn right along a road*. *In 60 metres* at a T-junction *turn left* along a lane leading to a double wooden fieldgate. *After 40 metres* (and 20 metres before the double wooden fieldgate) *turn right through a wooden kissing gate to cross a field*, (aiming for a gap in the fence 70 metres to the left of the right-hand field corner), your direction 190 degrees. After 140 metres, go through a wooden kissing gate into the next field to go along its left-hand edge, your direction 200 degrees.

In 180 metres at the left-hand corner of the field pass under some mini pylon cables to go down a car wide grass track acting as a field boundary, your direction south. After 170 metres cross over a plank footbridge into the corner of a field to go along its left-hand edge, your initial

direction 190 degrees. In 350 metres at the lower left hand corner of the field cross a stile and turn right for 30 metres to then turn left over a two plank footbridge flanked by two stiles, into the next field.

Go along a footpath, which contours along the left-hand side of a slope, your direction 170 degrees. After 220 metres where the field narrows to a 30 metre wide strip, continue along a potentially muddy footpath along the upper right hand side. After 200 metres at the right-hand corner of a narrow field cross over a plank footbridge flanked by two metal gates (with a pond on your right hand side) and veer left across a small field. After 35 metres cross a stile into a wood to go up a car wide track, your initial direction 190 degrees.

In 120 metres go through a wooden kissing gate to emerge from the wood to go along the upper right hand side of a field with a valley down to your left, your direction 210 degrees. In 400 metres at the right hand corner of the field go through a wooden kissing-gate to continue along the upper right hand side of the next field. In a further 400 metres at the right hand corner of the field *go through a wooden kissing-gate and turn right to reach a gravel driveway after 20 metres*. *Veer left* past a block of 4 garages on your left-hand side *to reach a T-junction after 35 metres and turn left* down a lane.

In 160 metres just before a T-junction with the main road, *turn right along a tarmac path*. *After 50 metres* cross over a footbridge, *to reach a church*, on your left-hand side. **[2]**

(i) If stopping for lunch follow the High Street round to the right (past a pond on your left-hand side) to reach **The Five Bells** on your right hand side after 200 metres. After lunch retrace your steps to pick up the route below.

(ii) Otherwise:

Continue ahead across a shingle car park between the church on your left and a pond on your right, your direction 190 degrees. In 80 metres go through a wooden kissing gate to the right of a metal fieldgate and turn left along the fenced-in lower left-hand side of a field, your direction 100 degrees. In 450 metres go through a wooden kissing gate and turn right up a car wide track (byway) through a wood, your direction 200 degrees.

In 80 metres follow the byway round to the left, up through the wood. In 700 metres you emerge from the wood to reach a T-junction with a lane **[3]**.

[If you are intending to finish the walk at Cocking, refer to the directions at the end of this main walk text under Alternative ending at Cocking.]

Otherwise *turn right* along the lane to join the South Downs Way (SDW), your direction 220 degrees. In 150 metres where the lane curves down to the right, continue ahead to leave the SDW to go up a bridleway on the right hand side of a wooded area with a fence on your right, your direction 190 degrees.

In 220 metres ignore a stile on your right hand side and in a further 130 metres go through a wooden gate to continue up the bridlepath through the wood, your direction 190 degrees. After 500 metres cross over a car wide track to continue along the bridlepath. In 60 metres the bridlepath joins a car wide track from your left. Go along a car wide track (Staunton Way), your direction south.

In 250 metres *turn left* (marked by a footpath post for the Staunton Way) to go initially up a footpath in an easterly direction, with a wooded area on your left and a fence and field beyond on your right. After 200 metres *turn right up a tarmac lane* between hedgerows, your direction 190 degrees.

After 380 metres where the tarmac lane swings round to the right, continue ahead

down a car wide shingle track with a wooded area on the right hand side and a fence and field beyond on your left, your direction 190 degrees.

In 100 metres you pass by tennis courts on your right hand side with Ditcham Park school buildings beyond. In 650 metres you pass by a red brick house on your left hand side as the car wide shingle track becomes a grass track and narrows to subsequently enter a wood.

In 350 metres you emerge from the wood along a fenced in car wide track, your initial direction 260 degrees. In 1.1 km the car wide track comes down to a T-junction. Veer right passing by a red brick house on your right hand side, to then go over a crossroads and after 80 metres cross a concrete footbridge over the railway.

Turn left along a lane and in 30 metres turn right (marked by a footpath signpost) up a fenced in footpath, your direction west. After 25 metres cross over a metal stile into the lower corner of a field to follow a well-defined footpath up across the field, your initial direction 210 degrees. In 240 metres go over a metal stile to continue straight ahead across a field, your direction west. After 230 metres on the far side of the field turn right down a lane to Chalton.

In 250 metres (25 metres before a Give Way sign) fork left up a tarmac lane to reach **The Red Lion** on your right hand side after 60 metres. Just past The Red Lion turn left (marked Staunton Way) to go through a lychgate after 40 metres into the churchyard of St. Michael and All Angels. After 20 metres by the entrance to the church on your right hand side, go through a gate to follow the Staunton Way footpath through the churchyard going through a wooden gate after 70 metres and then through a wooden kissing gate after 20 metres to exit the churchyard. After 150 metres cross a car wide track to go through a wooden kissing gate into a field at a 3-path

junction (as marked by a 3 way-marks on the kissing gate frame).

Turn right up across the field aiming for a wooden kissing gate in the hedgerow 270 metres distant, your direction south. Go through the kissing gate into the next field to continue in same direction up a wide grassy strip through this large arable field. In 650 metres go through a gap in the hedgerow into the next field to continue down a wide grassy strip passing just to the right of an HV pylon after 300 metres. In a further 100 metres go through a wooden kissing gate into the next field and turn right to go up its right hand side, in your prior direction 200 degrees. In 60 metres the footpath is bordered with a wooded area on your right.

*In 300 metres go over a cross paths to continue in an initially southerly direction along the Staunton Way with a wooded area on your right hand side. In a further 300 metres follow the edge of the field round to the left, (your direction now 60 degrees) and down for 60 metres to *turn right* (marked by a Staunton Way footpath signpost) *along a car wide track through a lightly wooded area, your direction south.**

In 70 metres you emerge from the lightly wooded area into the upper corner of a field to go along its upper right hand side, your initial direction 200 degrees. In 60 metres ignore a car wide track to the right to veer left down between fields, your direction 160 degrees. In 100 metres you join a wooded area on your right hand side and continue down the right hand side of the field.

After 600 metres at the bottom right hand corner of the field follow the footpath round to the left along the bottom right hand edge of the field, parallel with a lane on your right hand side. In 200 metres at the right hand field corner exit onto the lane to take the right hand fork into Finchdean, your direction 160 degrees.

After 180 metres at a T-junction with the George pub ahead turn right, your direction 190 degrees. In 80 metres ignore a road (sign-posted White Hill) forking up to the right (Staunton Way) to continue along the pavement of the main road.

In 450 metres and 15 metres before a railway bridge, turn right over a stile into a field to go up its left-hand side, your direction 280 degrees. After 180 metres go up through a lightly wooded area. In 50 metres you join a wooden garden fence on your right hand side to then after a further 25 metres go over a stile (to the left of a metal fieldgate). Turn left after 10 metres along a car wide track, go through a metal gate to the right of a metal fieldgate, your direction 190 degrees.

After 120 metres you emerge from the lightly wooded area to veer slightly right up across a field (with far views of the Isle of Wight on the half right ahead), your direction 210 degrees. In 700 metres exit the field through a metal gate in a wooden fence to follow a path down and round to the left to reach a T-junction after 50 metres.

*Turn left up a car wide track, and in 80 metres turn right through a gap to the right of a metal fieldgate to go down a wide grassy margin across a field, your direction 150 degrees. In 200 metres exit the field to go over a railway bridge and after 120 metres you come down to a road and turn right, your direction 210 degrees. In 450 metres you pass by **The Castle Inn** on your right and then go under a railway bridge. If not stopping for tea, turn right to reach the station after 150 metres.*

Walk options

a) Alternative ending at Cocking

[Notes: Requires Explorer map 120. Although the South Downs Way (SDW) is very well way-marked you will need a map for this section of the walk to

Cocking. Particularly for the last section when you leave the SDW for Cocking. Also refer to SWC Extra Walk 155.]

Turn left along the lane to follow the South Downs Way.

En route you pass by / through:

- Sunwood Farm after 1km (just before leaving the lane).
- After a further 2.5km you cross over the B2146.
- In a further 600 metres you cross over the B2141.
- In a further 1.2km you reach a cross paths at the foot of Beacon Hill. The SDW turns off to the right to skirt round the strenuous ascent of Beacon Hill. However if you are feeling up to it, then it is suggested that you continue ahead, in an easterly direction up and over Beacon Hill. You will re-join the SDW after 700 metres and also cut 1km.
- In a further 7km at a crosspaths (SU 856170), turn left along a car wide restricted byway. Follow this byway downhill for 1.7km until you reach a T-junction with a restricted byway
- Turn left to head in a northerly direction for 600 metres until you reach a T-junction with a road.
- Turn right to head in an easterly direction for Cocking, to reach a T-

junction with the main road after 400m and the [Bluebell pub](#) on your left.

- If not stopping at the pub, cross the main road with care and turn right to reach the bus stop for buses to Chichester.

Lunch and Tea places:

Castle Inn *Finchdean Road, Rowlands Castle PO9 6DA (023 9241 2494)*

Five Bells *High Street, Buriton GU31 5RX (01730 263584)* Food served every day 12 – 2.30pm. Located 4 km from the start of the walk.

Fountain *The Green, Rowlands Castle PO9 6AB (023 9241 2494)*

George Inn *Finchdean, PO8 0AU (023 9241 2257)* Located 2.5 km from the end of the walk.

Red Lion *Chalton, Hampshire, PO8 0BG (023 9259 2246)* Open all day. Food served M-Th 12 – 9pm, Fri & Sat 12 – 9.30pm, Sun 12 – 8pm. Located 9.5 km from the start of the walk.

Robin Hood *The Green, Rowland's Castle, PO9 6AB (023 9241 2291)*

The Tea on the Green 2 *The Green, Rowlands Castle PO9 6BN (023 9241 3717)*. Open 09.30-16.00 (-16.30 Sat-Sun).